



**Mayor Coleman's 2007 Proposed Saint Paul City Budget:
Putting Saint Paul Back on Track**

Energy Conservation Investment Fund

Overview

At no additional cost to tax payers, the City of Saint Paul will initially invest \$1 million dollars over the next several years into a new *Energy Conservation Investment Fund*. The fund will provide immediate financial resources to retrofit City facilities to reduce energy usage and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, and save the City money.

Why is the Mayor proposing this initiative?

As part of his goal to make Saint Paul the most livable city in America, Mayor Chris Coleman is committed to preserving the environment and making our city a national model for environmental protection and energy efficiency

He recognizes that global warming is an urgent threat to the environment and economic health of our community. In the absence of federal leadership, cities must take action at the local level. On February 1st, Mayor Coleman signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and pledged to develop a CO₂ reduction plan to decrease the City's emissions by 20%.

The *Energy Conservation Investment Fund* will enable the City to retrofit existing facilities to conserve energy, reduce CO₂ emissions and provide for substantial long-term savings for taxpayers without an increase in taxes.

How will it work?

The *Energy Conservation Investment Fund* is a revolving loan fund that supports energy investments that have a documented payback of less than 10 years for city-owned buildings. The *Fund* will be financed from existing sewer fund balances and will leverage additional money for the City's conservation efforts.

Public Works Director Bruce Beese is working with Xcel Energy and the Weidt Group to identify city buildings larger than 5,000 square feet with high energy usage in order to make energy conservation improvements. For example, if the Phalen Golf Course Clubhouse made \$35,000 worth of energy improvements, it would be eligible for about \$10,000 worth of rebates from Xcel Energy. With a \$25,000 loan from the *Energy Conservation Investment Fund*, the City's investment would pay for itself in a year and a half. We anticipate significantly reducing our energy use in all City buildings and saving approximately \$500,000 annually.

There is still more that can be done. The City is working with the Center for Energy and Environment, Izaak Walton League, Xcel Energy, District Energy and other community partners to develop a comprehensive energy conservation and CO₂ reduction plan that to be completed early this fall.
